

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention removes the problem conventionally confronted by electronically controlled thermostats that implementation of improved fuel consumption is difficult, and implements high cooling-water temperature controllability, improved fuel consumption, and an improvement of the heater function and so forth with high accuracy and at low cost.

The electronically controlled thermostat 21 comprises a heater element, which is an actuator that can be used for cooling-water control of the engine 1 and that is capable of optionally varying the valve-opening ratio, and an engine control unit that computes a target temperature by means of various engine parameters and distributes the power distribution amount required to operate the heater element so that the cooling water temperature reaches the target temperature. The current value distributed to the heater element is determined by monitoring only the actual water temperature of the cooling water. The current value is obtained by reading the difference in the cooling-water temperature variation per unit time and then predicting the cooling-water temperature according to this difference.